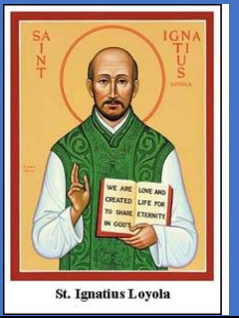




*Ad Majorem  
Dei Gloriam*

*To the Greater  
Glory of God*

# R.E. News At Loyola



*Lent Term  
2026*

Welcome back to school! We hope you all had a peaceful and joyful Christmas holiday and that the New Year has started well for your families. As we begin the Lent term, we enter a special season in the Church’s calendar—a time for reflection, prayer, and growing closer to Jesus. Lent is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about the values of kindness, generosity, and forgiveness. Throughout this term, we will be exploring the themes of prayer, fasting, and helping others in our RE lessons, assemblies, and school activities. Our aim is to help the children understand not just the story of Jesus’ journey to the cross, but also how they can live out their faith in everyday life. We look forward to welcoming families to our Lent and Easter including Masses, prayer services, and special events. These are always a joyful time for our school community to come together and celebrate our faith. May this term be one of growth, reflection, and blessing for all our children and their families. *Mrs K Anthony*



Each week our Mass is led by a different class or group of children. We are very fortunate that different priests join us each week and we thank them for their ongoing support. We always include family members or friends in our prayers at Mass and continue to pray for our wonderful teaching assistant, Mrs Coupland who continues to be very unwell. If you would like anyone included in our prayers, please do not hesitate to speak to your son’s class teacher. All family members and friends are welcome at our Masses and we look forward to seeing you soon. All Masses are on a Wednesday and start at 10.30am (no food or drink is permitted in the hall). The dates for our Masses this term are:



Thank you to CAFOD club for making our cross, showing solidarity and peace.

SOLIDARITY AND PEACE



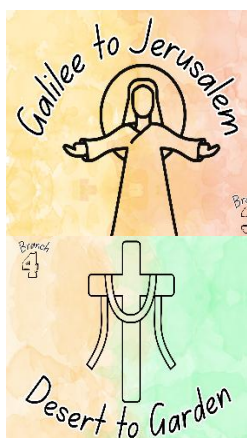
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Epiphany: Figures
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Baptism of the Lord: PP2
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan (10am)	Solidarity & Peace: Prep
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	St Thomas of Aquinas: Els
4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The Presentation of the Lord: PP1
11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Lent: Ruds
Half Term	
25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Southwell House
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Sacrament of Reconciliation
4 <sup>th</sup> March	St David: PP2
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Loyalty & helping others: Prep
18 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick: PP1
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Re-enactment of the Passion: Figs

This term, our learning is also rooted in **Catholic Social Teaching**, with a particular focus on the values of **Solidarity and Peace**. The boys will learn that solidarity calls us to recognise that we are all part of one human family, created and loved by God, and that we have a responsibility to care for and stand alongside others, especially the most vulnerable. Through Scripture, discussion and practical action, pupils will reflect on how living in peace means showing compassion, resolving conflict kindly and working for justice in our school, local community and the wider world.

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (18 February 2026).** The word *Lent* comes from an Old English word meaning "to lengthen", reflecting the change from winter to spring, when days grow longer and signs of new life appear around us. This natural renewal mirrors the purpose of Lent, as the Church invites us to pause, reflect and turn our hearts back to God, who calls us to "come back to me, with all your heart."

During Lent, pupils will also be encouraged to practise **almsgiving, prayer and self-reflection**, responding to the needs of others and recognising their **call to holiness**.

Lent is a journey that prepares us for **Easter**, the most important celebration in the Church's year. At Easter, Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and the hope of new life that he promises to all who believe in him.



In RE, all classes will first look at **Branch 3: Galilee to Jerusalem** which explores the life and teachings of Jesus during his public ministry. The boys will learn how Jesus taught about God's love, healed others and invited people to follow him as disciples. This branch helps pupils reflect on how Jesus' words and actions guide the choices we make in our own lives.

After half term, in **Branch 4: Desert to Garden**, we will focus on the Paschal Mystery and the Church's liturgical life. Children will explore Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection and how these events are remembered and celebrated through the Church's prayer, sacraments and seasons, especially during Lent and Easter. Together, these branches help children understand who Jesus is, what he teaches, and how the Church lives and celebrates his work today.



**Prayer & Worship:** At Loyola, we actively support the boys in developing a rich and meaningful prayer life through a variety of acts of worship. These may take the form of **prayer, meditation, song, Scripture or quiet reflection**, allowing pupils to encounter God in different ways. Opportunities for worship take place **individually, in small groups and as a whole school**, helping the boys to grow in confidence, participation and spiritual understanding. Through these shared experiences, pupils are encouraged to reflect on their faith, respond thoughtfully and recognise the importance of worship in both school life and everyday living. The Path Lighters group are always available to support anyone in prayer. If you would like some ideas for prayer (traditional and creative) please see our prayer booklets on the school website.

#### **Key dates during Lent 2026**

**\*Ash Wednesday – 18 February 2026**

The beginning of Lent, marking a call to repentance and renewal.

**\*Palm Sunday – 29 March 2026**

Remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

**\*Holy Thursday – 2 April 2026**

Celebrating the Last Supper and Jesus' command to love and serve.

**\*Good Friday – 3 April 2026**

Reflecting on the Passion and death of Jesus.

**\*Easter Sunday – 5 April 2026**

Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus and the joy of new life.



We continue to support many charities and this term look forward to supporting our local foodbanks and continuing with our work towards the "Live Simply" award with CAFOD.